

**1. What was / has been your occupation before entering politics?**

I have taught at universities for many years, and I have also been a musician and a journalist.

**2. Do you live in the riding and, if so, how long has it been your home?**

I live next door in Peterborough, and have been familiar with HLA – from visiting, and playing music – for at least a decade.

**3. What has been your main involvement with your community outside of work (volunteer activities, etc.)?**

I've been active in my union, and I have done a lot of community journalism. I've been on boards, and played a lot of benefits as a musician.

**4. In your life what event, or book, or speech, or song or even TV show has made the biggest impression on you and your political thinking? Why?**

A bunch of events that happened as I entered adulthood – the Free Trade election, the Montreal Massacre, the Oka Crisis, the Exxon Valdez, the Gulf War –shaped my early politics and gave me a sense of urgency as a young person that I've never really lost. I understood what was at stake in politics, and how important it was to get informed and get active. I also understood that I was implicated in things that didn't directly affect me because my comfort was very likely tied to someone else's suffering. I knew that I needed to work hard and stay sharp.

**5. What previous politician, (alive or dead, but not currently in parliament) is a role model for you?**

I thought about this recently, and thought of Rosemary Brown, who is best known for running for the federal leadership of the NDP against Ed Broadbent in the 70s. She was a real grassroots activist, and she articulated a vision for a more egalitarian society and championed the importance of the welfare state in ways that connected with people on a really basic, human level. I don't know if I have that skill, but I would like to, so she's an inspiration to me in that sense.

**6. What policy in your party's platform do you think matters most to the people in your riding?**

I think anything touching on affordability is going to affect the most people, regardless of how they vote. Pocketbook issues might not be glamorous or complex, but they make a party's position clear in a way speeches often don't. If I can play a part in easing rural families' anxieties about paying for their bills or accessing services, I will feel like I was successful. We have some big thinking to do when it comes to climate change and reconciliation, but ultimately where our policies make the most impact is in the everyday lives of our constituents, for better or worse.

**7. Recent polls suggest many Canadians are disillusioned with politics. If elected, what would you do to address those concerns?**

I believe the only way to overcome disillusionment is to promise things that matter to people and then, if elected, fight to make them happen. Too many politicians hector their constituents to ignore their own

interests and focus instead on the needs of an abstract, imaginary economy that often bears no relation on how people live, earn, and care for their families and loved ones. That's how we've ended up with such an obscene level of inequality in Canada. Democracy is fundamentally about making government work for the people, using its power to improve people's lives.